

1 fiscal year 2014 budget; and

2 WHEREAS, CPS indicates that it needs to close, co-locate,
3 and turnaround underutilized and underperforming schools in an
4 effort to attempt to close the estimated fiscal year 2014
5 budget deficit; and

6 WHEREAS, After providing a preliminary list of 129 schools,
7 and participating in a series of public meetings regarding the
8 schools on the preliminary list, CPS, on March 21, 2013,
9 announced proposed actions involving 114 schools; and

10 WHEREAS, A major factor contributing to the
11 underutilization of CPS schools is the expansion of school
12 capacity; currently CPS has only about 1% fewer students than
13 it did in 1991 but has almost 100 more school facilities; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 22, 2013, the Chicago Board of Education
15 voted to close 50 of the original 54 schools from the initial
16 proposed closing list, despite opposition and recommendations
17 against the closure of 13 schools being raised by hearing
18 officers, retired State and federal judges, hired by CPS to vet
19 the closing process; the hearing officers raised doubts about
20 the wisdom of the proposals, that the proposals were
21 insensitive to the needs and educational success of students
22 and in some cases will place them in harm's way; and

1 WHEREAS, Over 30,000 CPS students will be impacted by
2 overall school actions; and

3 WHEREAS, The CPS school closing plan, which includes
4 actions affecting welcoming schools, turnaround schools,
5 co-locations, and school phase outs will impact 5,277 students
6 with disabilities, each of whom has an Individualized
7 Educational Plan; and

8 WHEREAS, School closings often have profound ramifications
9 for the educational experience of students and the surrounding
10 community, as numerous studies have shown that when a school is
11 closed or negative actions take place, student academic
12 outcomes are negatively impacted, safety concerns are
13 increased as children have to travel farther and through
14 sometimes dangerous territory, and parental and community
15 confidence in the school system is shaken; and

16 WHEREAS, Public Act 97-238 called for significant
17 reporting changes for Chicago District 299 in regards to the
18 State programs included in the General Education and
19 Educational Services Block Grants for which CPS has failed to
20 adequately respond or provide required information; and

21 WHEREAS, Public Act 97-474 called for the establishment of

1 an "Educational Facilities Master Plan" for CPS that shall
2 provide community area, individual, and school master plans, in
3 addition to community analysis, facility needs, and district
4 requirements that CPS is required to report by October 1, 2013;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 the intent and policy of the State of Illinois remains
9 educational success and well being of our children; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That we urge sensitivity to the perspective of
12 students, parents, community leaders, and local school
13 councils by the Chicago Public School system, and we urge CPS
14 to continue to actively engage all parties affected by the
15 school actions; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge CPS to honor its commitment to have
17 a 5-year moratorium on school actions as a result of the
18 passage of Public Act 97-1133, and we urge CPS to act in a
19 transparent manner and to fully engage the Illinois General
20 Assembly and all stakeholders, students, parents, and
21 community leaders in a process that is clearly delineated and
22 responsive to the perspective of all involved whenever it
23 engages in school actions; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Chicago Public Schools shall fully and
2 timely comply with the requirements of Public Act 97-238 and
3 Public Act 97-474 and provide information to families affected
4 by the school actions and the Illinois General Assembly on cost
5 savings from planned school closing, any extra security and
6 safety programs for students as well as equipment upgrades for
7 "welcoming" schools as passed by the Chicago Board of
8 Education; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the City of Chicago School District 299."